

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 2528

EXDIS

PARIS FOR HARTMAN

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CY, TU, GR, AU
SUBJ: CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA: CONVERSATION WITH TURKISH
OBSERVER

1. EUR/SE DIRECTOR MET WITH TURKISH "OBSERVER" GUVENDIREN
MARCH 31 TO GO OVER PROSPECTS FOR VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS.
GUVENDIREN SAID ANKARA WAS PLEASED DEPARTMENT HAD SENT REPRESENTATIVE TO VIENNA, WHO COULD REPT IN DETAIL HOW TURKISH SIDE WAS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO FIND BASIS FOR EQUITABLE CYPRUS SOLUTION.

2. GUVENDIREN DESCRIBED HIS TASK IN VIENNA AS ENSURING THAT
TURKISH-CYPRIOTS DID NOT STRAY OFF PROPER PATH AND KEPT
NEGOTIATING PROCESS GOING. GUVENDIREN OBSERVED THAT THIS
WOULD NOT BE AN EASY UNDERTAKING GIVEN DEVIOUS GREEK
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BEHAVIOR. BY WAY OF EXAMPLE, GUVENDIREN COMPLAINED THAT
GREEK-CYPRIOTS HAD ALREADY LEAKED TO THE PRESS--BOTH
GREEK AND TURKISH--SELECTIVE DETAILS ABOUT THEIR
TERRITORIAL PROPOSAL. AS RESULT, WHAT PURPORTS TO BE
GREEK-CYPRIT MAP HAD ALREADY APPEARED IN TURKISH PRESS,
EVEN BEFORE VIENNA TALKS HAD BEGUN. THIS FACT MADE IT
EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR TURKISH GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT

DOCUMENT AS BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS, BUT TURKS RECOGNIZED THAT IF THEY REJECTED MAP, TURKS WOULD BE VIEWED BY WORLD AS INTRANSIGENT, AND WOULD BE BLAMED FOR BREAKDOWN OF VIENNA TALKS.

3. GUVENDIREN ADDED THAT FROM WHAT HE HAD SEEN IN TURKISH PRESS, GREEK-CYPRIOT MAP WAS INDEED UNACCEPTABLE. IT ALLOTTED ONLY 19.7 PERCENT OF CYPRUS TO TURKISH-CYPRIOTS, WHILE DENYING THEM VIRTUALLY ANY GOOD AGRICULTURAL LAND. MOREOVER, THE LINE WAS DRAWN IN SUCH A WAY THAT TURKS HAD NO SECURITY WHATSOEVER.

4. WHEN GUVENDIREN ASKED FOR U.S. COMMENTS, DEPARTMENT OFFICER SAID HE HAD NOT SEEN THE MAP NOR AND PRESS TREATMENT OF IT. AT SAME TIME, IF GREEK-CYPRIOTS DID PUT MAP ON THE TABLE WHICH WAS GIZONAL IN CHARACTER, AND PROVIDED FOR A TURKISH ZONE OF ABOUT 20 PERCENT, THEN THIS WOULD SEEM AT FIRST GLANCE TO PROVIDE BASIS FOR CONCRETE GIVE AND TAKE ON TERRITORIAL QUESTION.

5. GUVENDIREN GRUDGINGLY AGREED, AND SAID TURKS WOULD NOT REJECT GREEK-CYPRIOT PROPOSAL OUT OF HAND, BUT WOULD BE PREPARED TO OUTLINE THEIR OWN POSITION ON TERRITORY AND WOULD ASK GREEK-CYPRIOTS TO EXPLAIN BASIS ON WHICH MAP HAD BEEN DEVELOPED.

6. GUVENDIREN CLOSED CONVERSATION BY PROVIDING LENGTHY EXPLANATION OF HOW TURKS HAD DEVELOPED CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSAL WHICH THEY WOULD BE PRESENTING. GUVENDIREN
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SAID FUNCTIONS OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE DEVELOPED SLOWLY AS CONFIDENCE OF BOTH SIDES IN WORKING TOGETHER INCREASED OVER NEXT FEW YEARS. WHILE PROPOSAL DID NOT PROVIDE A CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AS STRONG AS GREEK-CYPRIOTS MIGHT WISH, IT WAS A FLEXIBLE BEGINNING AS WELL AS AN HONEST ATTEMPT TO DRAW ON THE EXPERIENCE OF THE PAST, AND THE DEEP-FELT TURKISH-CYPRIOT WISH FOR SECURITY. FROM GUVENDIREN'S DESCRIPTION, IT WAS CLEAR TURKISH-CYPRIOT PROPOSAL WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE CHARACTERIZED BY GREEKS AS LOOSE CONFEDERATION. MEEHAN

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